

REMARKS

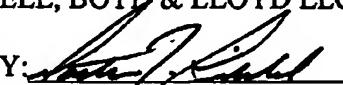
The present Preliminary Amendment makes editorial changes and corrects typographical errors in the specification, which includes the Abstract, in order to conform the specification to the requirements of the United States Patent Practice. No new matter is added by this Preliminary Amendment. Attached hereto is a Substitute Specification including a marked-up version of the changes made thereto by the present Amendment.

In addition, the present Preliminary Amendment cancels the original claims 1 to 11 in favor of new claims 12 to 22. Claims 12 to 22 have been presented solely because the revisions by red-lining and underlining which would have been necessary in claims 12 to 22 in order to present those claims in accordance with preferred United States Patent Practice would have been too extensive, and thus would have been too burdensome. The present Preliminary Amendment is intended for clarification purposes only and not for substantial reasons related to patentability pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103 and § 112. Indeed, the cancellation of claims 1 to 11 does not constitute an intent on the part of the Applicants to surrender any of the subject matter of the claim 1 to 11.

Early consideration on the merits is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any fees which are due and owing.

Respectfully submitted,

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